

F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church
Ijamsville vicinity
Private

1883

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1883, according to a dated stone in the foundation, perhaps replacing an earlier log structure on the site. The church trustees purchased the lot in 1869, a few months after buying an adjoining site for a school, which has been demolished. The church is a one-story frame building with modern vinyl siding and a foyer and western extension added in the mid-20th century. The original building had three bays on the north and south elevations with 6/6 windows. The roof, now covered with corrugated metal, was probably originally wood shingles. Surrounding the church on the north, west and south is a cemetery with a variety of grave stones, one of which, a 1960's marker for a child, is notable for the sculpted baby shoes on its top edge. Ebenezer M. E. Church is minimally significant for its architecture, having been considerably altered in the early 20th century; however, it represents the close connection between religion and education in late 19th and early 20th century black communities.

F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church
Ijamsville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Religion
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:
Religion/religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-7-34

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ noMaryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Locationstreet & number Ijamsville Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Ijamsville ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Ebenezer United Methodist Church

street & number c/o John Foreman, Sr. telephone no.:

city, town Ijamsville state and zip code MD 21754

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber TG10

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 444

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story frame church with vinyl siding, originally built in 1883 according to a datestone in the stone foundation, and altered several times through the early 20th century by the addition of a foyer at the main entrance and an L-shaped extension of the west gable end. The church is located on the west side of Ijamsville Road about 75 yards north of Fingerboard Road, near Ijamsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The main entrance faces east and a one-story non-contributing concrete block education and activity building is located a few feet northeast of the church. A cemetery extends in a semi-circles from the north side of the buildings around the west end of the church. The church is currently named Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

The church is a rectangular structure with a corrugated metal gable roof and three bays on the original north and south elevations. The vinyl siding probably conceals or replaced german siding, the most common exterior siding material for frame structures in the late 19th century. The roof was probably originally wood shingles. The foyer, which has a concrete block foundation, obscures the original entrance, but it was probably a single opening with double doors. The foyer and the side elevations have 6/6 windows with applied colored film resembling stained glass. The original three bays were extended by two additional bays on the north elevation when the western addition was built. This section has a projecting south leg with modern windows. An exterior concrete block chimney is located on the south elevation. The interior of the church was inaccessible for this survey.

The cemetery near the church is notable for the variety of grave markers, from simple military style marble markers to carved marble and granite monuments in small obelisk forms. One 1960's marker near the north side of the church, for a child's grave, has a pair of carved baby shoes on the top edge of the stone.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-34

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1883

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒A ☐B ☐C ☐D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐A ☐B ☐C ☐D ☐E ☐F ☐G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church is minimally significant for its architecture, which, although altered with modern siding and additions, still reveals its simple rectangular form, linking it to the context of rural churches of the late 19th century throughout Frederick County. The Ebenezer trustees purchased the church lot from William Gant for \$5 in October 1869, eight months after the same group of trustees had acquired an adjoining 3/4-acre lot from Gant for the construction of a school "for the use, benefit, and education of the colored people of Frederick County". The strong cultural link between education and religion in late 19th century black communities is thus revealed, although the schoolhouse has been demolished for many years. Both church and school were called Ebenezer. It is not clear whether the present building, dated 1883, is a replacement of an earlier church, perhaps a log structure, or whether the construction of the church was delayed until funds could be raised. In some black communities, the school and church were held in the same building for several years before separate facilities could be built. The location of the church and school lots is about half way between the black community of Centerville on Fingerboard Road and Ijamsville on Bush Creek and was clearly located to facilitate access from both villages.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-34

Clarke, Nina H. History of the 19th Century Black Churches in Maryland and Washington, D.C. New York: Vantage Press, 1983, 241.

Land Records of Frederick County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.5 acres

Quadrangle name Urbana, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 96, Parcel 102

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date October 1993

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

Chgo. & M.E. Church c/o Mary Lyles Jamsville 21754

F-7-34

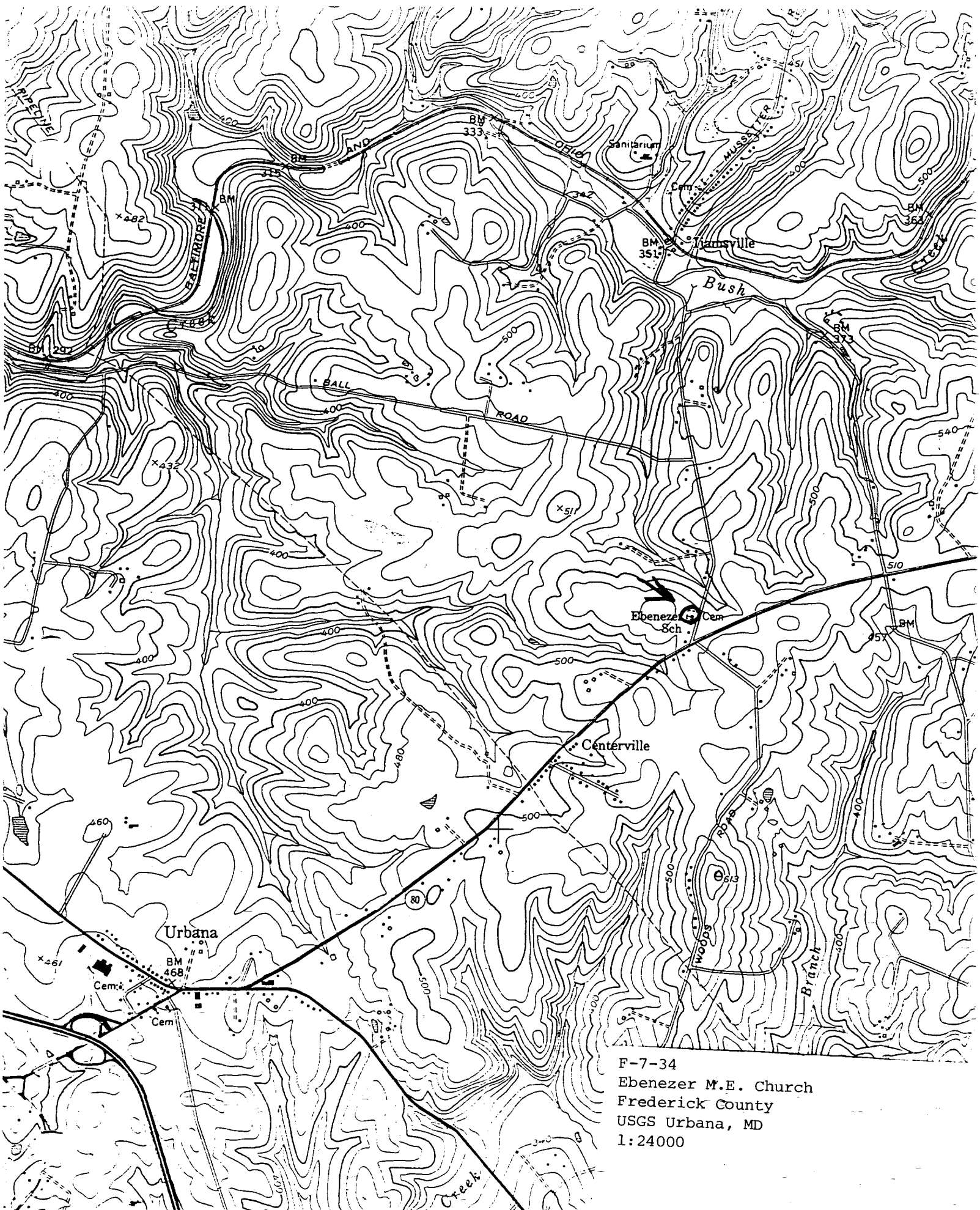
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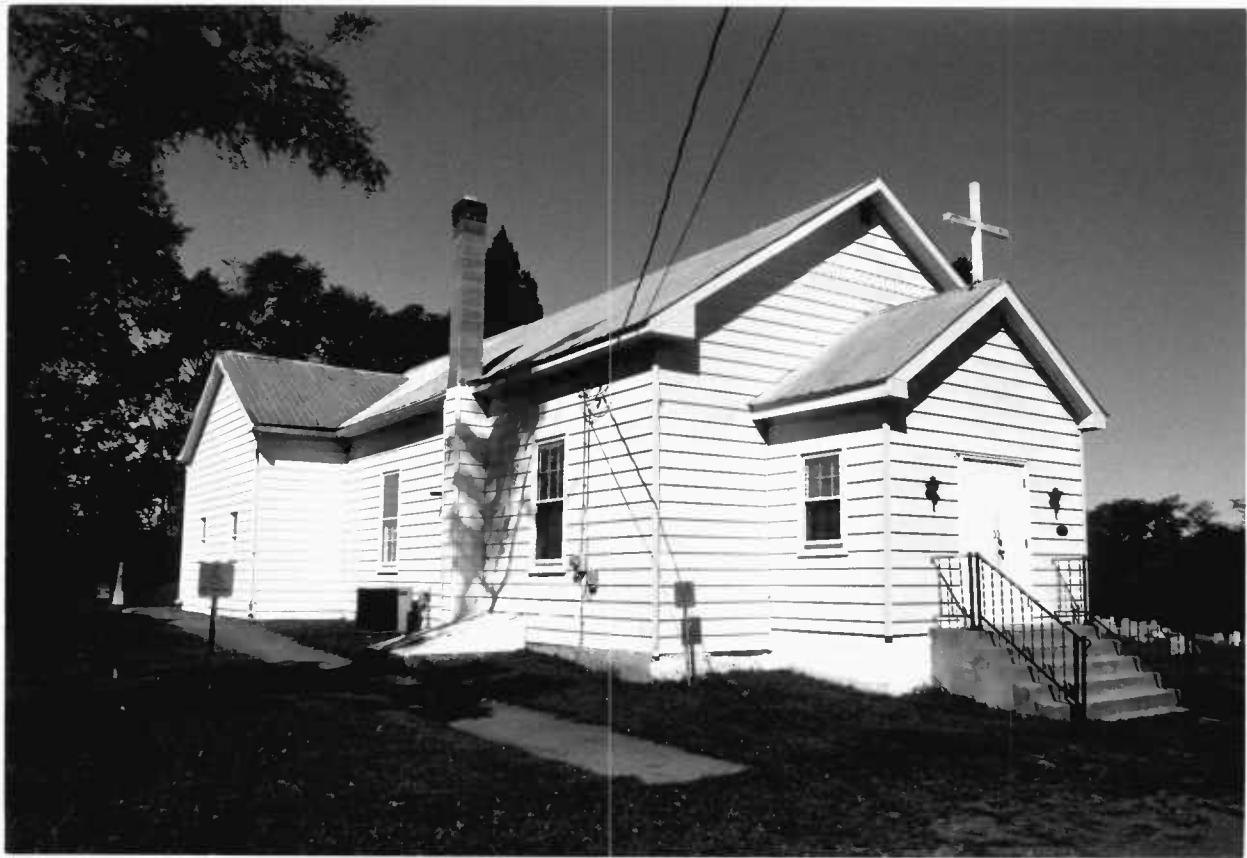
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Original Tracts

Original Tracts



F-7-34
Ebenezer M.E. Church
Frederick County
USGS Urbana, MD
1:24000





JOSEPH HENRY
BORN JAN. 21
DIED DEC. 13 1901
AGE 80

